



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CONSTRUCTION CODES COORDINATING BOARD

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
Wednesday, October 29, 2014  
1100 4<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W. – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor - Conference Room E300  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Members Present	Board Members Not Present	Board Staff Present	Other Persons Present
Paul Waters (Chair)	Ethan Landis	Jill Stern (DCRA)	David Epley (DCRA)
Alex Berley (Vice Chair)		LaShawn Dickey (DCRA)	Matt Orlins (DCRA)
Jatinder Khokhar			
Marc Fetterman			
Robert Hershey			
Herbert Taylor			
Bill Updike			
Rabbiah Sabbakhan			
Armando Lourenco			

**1. Preliminary Matters**

***Call to Order***

The meeting was called to order by Paul Waters, Chair, at 10:15 a.m. with a roll call of members and other persons present. It was noted that only three voting members attended the September 17, 2014 meeting. Lacking a quorum, no business was conducted at the meeting.

***Adoption of Meeting Agenda***

The meeting agenda was unanimously approved by the Board upon motion made by Bill Updike and duly seconded by Jatinder Khokhar.

***Review & Approval of Meeting Minutes***

The meeting minutes for the Wednesday, August 20, 2014 Special Meeting were unanimously approved by the Board, upon motion made by Jatinder Khokhar and duly seconded by Rabbiah Sabbakhan.

**2. Status Updates and Administrative Matters**

- (i) Emergency Rulemaking and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (2013 12 DCMR).

The Emergency Rulemaking has been extended until December 27, 2014 and the 45-day Council review period will expire on December 22, 2014. Matt Orlins advised the Board that he would publish a Notice of Final Rulemaking on December 26 subject to ODAI's publication schedule.

- (ii) 14 DCMR Rulemaking.

The Board was advised that a Second Notice is being reviewed by OAG with the expectation of publication before the end of the year.

- (iii) Harmonization Act.

The proposed Act has been introduced to Council. Matt Orlins advised that the Act would likely not be considered until after the New Year. Marc Fetterman asked whether additional revisions to the DC Code could now be



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suggested, and if so he would re-circulate proposed revisions that he had received from a member of the public. Matt Orlins confirmed that there would be a chance to revise the proposed Act when a Committee hearing is scheduled, and that the proposed revisions should be re-sent to him and Jill Stern.

(iv) Out of Cycle Code Changes.

Jill Stern raised the issue of how the CCCB should treat code change proposals that are submitted to the Board “out of cycle”, that is, before the Board formally begins consideration of the 2015 model codes. She advised the Board that the policy should be clarified so that any parties submitting code change proposals are aware of the timeline for consideration of proposals. She recommended that the Board follow the ICC policy, which allows for adoption of “out of cycle” code changes only where life and safety issues are involved. The consensus of the Board members was that the same procedure should be followed.

(v) Consideration of 2015 ICC Codes.

Board members discussed the question of whether adoption of the 2015 ICC Codes should be considered, or whether it made more sense to wait for the 2018 model codes. Following a discussion, the consensus was that the 2015 codes should be considered because of the significant changes being adopted in the Energy and IgCC codes, and also because delaying until 2018 could mean that new codes would not be adopted until 2020.

(vi) Fire Code Section 317, ICC Interpretation (Applicability to Green Roofs).

Jill Stern advised the Board that a telephone conversation had taken place with Bill Johnson who oversees the ICC’s fire section and he provided his interpretation of 2012 IFC Section 317.2 (Rooftop garden or landscaped roof size). Bill Updike and Rebecca Stack of DDOE also participated in the call. Bill Johnson advised that this section is intended to limit the size of a combustible rooftop garden or landscaped roof (also called vegetative roof) to 15,625 sq. ft. with a maximum dimension of 125 feet, based on the average working length of a firefighter’s hose when connected to a standpipe. He confirmed that this section would allow multiple areas of combustible vegetated roof covering of 15,625 sq. ft. or less, provided the roof space separating these vegetated areas is at least 6 ft. in width and rated as “Class A” in accordance with ASTM E108 or UL 790. If the entire roof covering is properly classified as “Class A”, this section of the IFC does not impose any limitation to the area of roof covering according to Mr. Johnson. Bill Updike indicated that he was satisfied with the ICC interpretation and that no revision of Section 317 would be necessary to address his concerns.

(vii) Other Matters

a. ODAI publication of 2013 12 DCMR. An electronic version of 2013 12 DCMR is now available on-line at DCRegs. Marc Fetterman asked about the status of the “hard copy” publication of 2013 12 DCMR, and Jill Stern indicated that she would follow up to find out.

b. Signage Task Force. It was reported that DDOT is still hoping to publish a Second Notice of Proposed Rulemaking this calendar year.

c. Administrative Bulletins. Rabbiah Sabbakhan distributed copies of written guidelines that DCRA has been developing, and advised the Board that more than 30 guidelines have been posted on the DCRA website with more to come. He clarified DCRA’s expectation that the Administrative Bulletin



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process would be used primarily for code interpretations, and changes in agency procedures. In response to a question about the manuals on Third Party Plans Review and Third Party Inspections, Rabbiah Sabbakhan reiterated that the agency plans to publish these manuals as Administrative Bulletins after proposed revisions to the manuals are reviewed with stakeholders.

**3. Status of New Code Change Proposals**

(i) Expanded Child Development Homes (CCCCB-RC-App. M-1-2014)

Herb Taylor advised the Board that the Fire TAG had met to discuss the proposed changes to Appendix M, and that Cory Mengual of Mary's Center had attended the TAG meeting. He indicated that the TAG is scheduling another meeting, and he expects to be able to report back to the Board at the November 19 meeting. In response to a question, Herb Taylor indicated that the TAG is likely to recommend the NFPA occupancy limits for children under age 2. Marc Fetterman asked whether there has been any update on the status of the required zoning amendment, and Jill Stern said that she would follow up with OP on this question.

(ii) Posting of Construction Permits (CCCCB-IP-1-1-2014)

Marc Fetterman advised that the IP TAG has not met on this proposal, but that he understood DCRA would be expanding the information available on its Property Information Verification System (PIVS) about construction permits which he expected would address the concerns underlying Daniel Greenberg's proposal to the CCCC . Robbie Sabbakhan indicated that the PIVS revisions were underway.

(iii) Mechanical Ventilation Requirements for Renovated Buildings

David Epley, DCRA's Green Building Program Coordinator, distributed a code change proposal to modify the Mechanical Code (Section 401.2) to ensure that renovated dwelling units are required to provide mechanical ventilation. He had raised this issue at the prior Board meeting due to concern that the wording of the provision does not apply to existing dwelling units, even where substantially altered. Following a brief Board discussion regarding the feasibility of defining the types of alterations that involve upgrading of insulation and vapor barriers in exterior walls, Paul Waters suggested that David Epley follow up with Armando Lourenco and Marc Fetterman to determine the appropriate rule change that would be required to balance the competing concerns.

**4. Comments by Members of the Public**

No members of the public were in attendance.

**5. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am upon motion made by Robert Hershey and duly seconded by Bill Updike.